

## What's Cookin'? Plenty Maybe

### Leslie Gregory, Hamilton, Dies

Leslie Gregory of Hamilton, Ontario, well-known theatre manager and exhibitor, died in a Hamilton hospital on August 10th of injuries received when the plane he was piloting crashed into some trees at Georgetown, Ontario, during a thick fog. Police concluded that the fog forced Gregory to

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### Fox to Make Carnival of Cops

Leading characters in most of Hollywood's mystery series will be collected in one picture by Bryan Foy under the title of "Four Star Murder Case." Story concerns Philo Vance, who becomes stymied in solving a murder and calls for assistance from Charlie Chan, Mr. Moto, Bulldog Drummond, the Falcon, Michael Shayne and as many more sleuths as the plot will stand.

### Fred Govan Married

Fred Govan, studio technician at Associated Screen Studios for a number of years, has joined the ranks of the benedicts. His marriage to Miss Marjorie McLetchie took place at Verdun Presbyterian Church. A staff presentation was made to Fred at a studio party on the eve of his marriage.

### Burglars Visit Radio City, Toronto

Radio City Theatre, a B & F house, was visited by some persistent thieves last week end. They sawed through a wooden door and two metal ones.

They cut the locks out of the metal doors, then reached the wooden one. On being manhandled, the burglar alarm went off and scared the thieves away, causing them to leave their hacksaw on the floor of the operating room.

### Buzz Rising to Hullabaloo As Regulations in Sight

If activity devoted to a single purpose within the same period, though in several different places, is any indication, an organized or semi-organized movement is in action to prevent the draft containing the newly-proposed rulings for governing the motion picture industry in Canada from receiving official approval and becoming law. The draft, drawn up by R. C. McMullen, Director of the Theatre and Film section of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, is in Ottawa being studied.

### Killed in Crash



Leslie Gregory, Hamilton, Ontario, theatre man, who died of injuries sustained when the plane he was piloting crashed during a fog.

### Korda to Make 'War and Peace'

Alexander Korda announced yesterday the purchase of dramatic and film rights to a new stage version of Tolstoy's "War and Peace." This version, which was performed with great success in Moscow was written by I. Suda-kov, a director of the Malik Theatre Group of Moscow.

Negotiations were concluded in New York by Helen Black in behalf of the Press and Publishers' Literary Group of Moscow. The producer will announce cast and film production plans at an early date.

Exhibitors from many points in Canada, among them A. J. Mason and Malcolm Walker of Nova Scotia; B. E. Laxer and others from Ontario, have made frequent excursions to the Capital and it can be assumed safely that their business related to regulations in effect and proposed. Other leading Independent exhibitors have addressed regular letters on the sub-

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### Laxer Indies Booklet Blasts Chains, Distribs

Canadian motion picture distributors were the targets of a volley of charges, the most serious ever fired in native inter-industry strife, aimed at them in a 32-page booklet published by the authority of the recently-formed Independent Motion Picture Exhibitors of Ontario and bearing the imprinted signature of Barnett E. Laxer. The booklet bears the description: "Memorandum of the National Council of Independent Exhibitors of Canada to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and to James Stewart, its Administrator of Services." Below this are the names of eight Independent exhibitor executives, one from each province, of the National Council referred to.

Throughout the document, in various ways, is repeated the charge voiced during the recent

### Famous Players Meets in Toronto

Eastern District Supervisors and Partners of Famous Players met in Toronto on Wednesday and Thursday, August 12th and 13th. The main topics of discussion at the meetings were problems of wartime operation.

Present at the luncheon held on Thursday were the Honourable Mitchell F. Hepburn, Mr. Barney Balaban, president of Paramount Pictures Inc., here from New York and Mr. Leonard Goldenson of the Paramount theatre department, also from New York.

The annual picnic of the Home Office staff was held at the Rouge Hills Golf and Country Club on Friday, August 14th.

Parliamentary session by W. E. Esling, British Columbia, that the distributors were manipulating product and rentals, "apparently for the purpose of putting Independent theatres out of business and getting control of them."

According to the booklet, "Independents are being driven out of business at an unprecedented rate, while the surviving ones with good theatres are in danger of extinction."

"Finding the avenue of new

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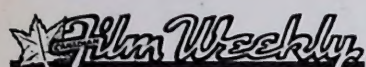
### Oh, That Ace!

The Ace, Toronto, never seems to run out of ideas for weird bookings. The latest is a battle of the sexes. Double-billed are "Lost Patrol," a film without women, and "The Women," one without men.

### JACK BENNY JOINS UA AS PRODUCER

Jack Benny, screen actor and peddler of palpitating pudding via the radio, will found his own production company under the United Artists' banner. The deal involves \$12,000,000 and 12 pictures, two a year. Benny will appear in six of these.





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## What Now?

Almost a year has gone by since the National Advisory Council was formed to work with R. C. McMullen, the government's appointee as director of the Theatre and Film section of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Launched in an atmosphere of strife, it has never lived down its belligerent background. On the contrary, differences between its delegates, brought together in the interests of industry harmony, seem to have come almost to the point of an open break.

While it was supposed that the Council would be the forum of all disputes, this being part of the plan, a certain section of the Independents, ignoring this agreed function of the body to which they subscribed and on which they are represented, have organized outside action right across Canada. Members have made separate pleas and moves for modification of regulations proposed by the Director before the Advisory Council. So have others, who apparently feel themselves to be outside the jurisdiction of the Advisory Council.

One hears informally from these Independents that what they are doing is in self-defence and was begun only when it became apparent that the distributors and circuits had taken that course earlier.

If this is true, it can be easily assumed that the National Advisory Council is serving a limited purpose and certainly not the one for which it was formed.

## Where's Harmony?

Inter-industry quarrels have from the first borne heavily on the Council and made the Director's task a busy one.

To begin with, there were the differences as to who should be ranked as Independent. One group, headed by Barnett E. Laxer, president of the then newly-formed Independent Motion Picture Exhibitors of Ontario, claimed that exhibitors with even the most limited circuit connections, must surrender their standing as Independents. This was contested by the Independent Theatres Association, seven years old at the time. The ITA claimed the Council was not truly representative, since none of its type of Independent exhibitor was represented. It disclaimed representation, either by the Independent or circuit delegates.

This controversy, which might have been continued endlessly because there is a great number of Independents of that ilk, was removed when Nat A. Taylor, president of the Independent Theatres Association, said: "The ITA will not endanger industry unity in wartime by insisting on what it considers to be a more equitable state of affairs. Time alone will decide whether the administrator has made a happy choice in disregarding our protest."

This was the first contribution to harmony. Time is beginning to make it look like the only one.

## Good Intentions

A. J. Mason and others on both sides of the fence agreed that the best plan at any time would be to have the industry settle its differences inside. Now Mr. Mason and others are active in invoking outside authority to secure what they consider to be justice. No doubt they can provide logical reasons for their actions, just as the ITA was able to explain clearly why it considered the Council to be

## '49th Parallel' Barred in S.A.

The Columbia film about Canada, "49th Parallel," most of which was filmed here, was forced off Argentine screens by the protest of Axis envoys. Shown everywhere but Canada as "The Invaders," the film has been doing tremendous business. It is a Canadian panorama, its story showing why Canadians are at war in defence of Democracy. Raymond Massey, a Canadian, is a featured star, as are Leslie Howard, Laurence Olivier, Anton Walbrook and others.

Crowds went to the box office of the Grancine Rex Theatre, Buenos Aires, to buy tickets for the last two days' showing.

The manager of the Fox Films distributing office said Mayor Carlos A. Pueyrredon had also suspended indefinitely the exhibition of the film, "Secret Agent of Japan," as the result of a protest made to the Foreign Office by Japanese Ambassador Baron Shu Tomii.

Showing of "The Invaders" was permitted for the last two days when the theatre manager told the Ministry of Interior that advance seats had been sold.

United States embassy sources said Charge D'Affaires Edward L. Reed had made official inquiries immediately regarding the suspension of the two films. It was pointed out that no official suspension order was issued, but that the theatre managers had been informed that the showing must be halted as a result of the diplomatic protests.

The managers of the Columbia and Fox Films offices said both films had been passed by the city censors last week and therefore the companies would protest the mayor's suspension order in an effort to lift the ban.

"The Invaders" has attracted  
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not truly representative.

If, as the case appears to be, Laxer, Mason and others disagree with certain proposed rulings, it would seem to isolate the Director and his judgement, as represented by the draft now in the hands of Ottawa authorities. To what extent the distributors and chains agree with the Director we can't say, because of the no-publicity policy of the Council and Director.

But this is evident—there's trouble afoot. And plenty of it.

However, we spoke to Mr. McMullen about the state of the industry and it was his opinion that things were quiet and going along fine.

## Plenty Trouble A-Cookin'?

(Continued from Page 1)

ject of wartime regulation to each and all who have something to do with it.

Affiliates of a recently-organized Independent exhibitors' organization in each province have had meetings and aimed resolutions at Ottawa, at the same time interesting members of the House of Commons in their cause. The most recent instance of the latter was the statement in Parliament by W. E. Esling, member for Kootenay West, British Columbia, who said that all B. C. members had received telegrams charging that distributors were raising film rentals to Independent theatres, apparently for the purpose of putting them out of business and getting control of them. This, needless to say, angered distributors, very much, though no official reply has come from them as yet.

All this would seem to reflect on the National Advisory Council, supposedly composed of representatives of every section of the industry, as a successful idea. It was understood by all that this Council would be the depository of all new ideas for regulating the industry in wartime and that all differences would be placed before it for discussion and possible agreement. Whether this has been done is hard to know, since the Council and Director issue no publicity or news of its meetings.

The squabbling being carried on outside the Council and the direct appeals being made to outside authorities is evidence that the Advisory Council, formed last fall, is creaking and at present is enjoying a limited usefulness.

All this outside disputation has caused the news of the Council's differences to become the subject of common discussion and in this way it has become apparent, from time to time, that almost no single ruling, in effect or proposed, has been found satisfactory by all. Rulings seem to become law at the judgement of the director and not by unanimous consent of the various delegates.

Among the proposed rulings being opposed by the Independents are (1) the moving forward of the basic period so that 1941-42 contracts will provide the basis of future prices, (2) the lumping of top features with specials, (3) forced buying and (4) frozen runs.

The three-cornered battle between the distributors, Independent exhibitors and the Director has brought out many arguments for and against. The quietest on the subject at the moment are the circuits.

It looks like a rough time ahead before some form of regulation satisfactory to all will be worked out—if at all.



## Leslie Gregory, Hamilton, Dies

(Continued from Page 1)

try for a landing. Gregory was found, still conscious, fifteen feet from the wreck, which had caught fire.

The plane landed in a swamp and the farmer who found Gregory was of the opinion that he had dragged himself away from the burning machine. The department of transport in Ottawa is probing the crash.

The Hamilton theatre man was on his way to join his face at their Honey Harbor summer home when he crashed. A flying enthusiast, he acquired his pilot's license some time ago. A few weeks ago a plane he was piloting, equipped with floats, crashed in Hamilton Bay and Gregory was rescued by a harbor patrol.

Gregory, who was 35 years of age, was once manager of the Tivoli, Hamilton, and at the time of his death was interested in the operation of three theatres in that city, the Royal, Windsor, and York. He came to the special attention of the trade recently because of his vigorous legal fight against the midnight show ban in Hamilton.

Besides his wife, the former Jean Delaney, he leaves his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Leslie Gregory of Oakville, Ont. Leslie Gregory's home was at 68½ King St. West, Hamilton.

The funeral is being held today from Blachford & Wray at 3.30 o'clock. Burial will be in Woodland cemetery.

## James Cruze Dies in Hollywood

James Cruze, director of "The Covered Wagon" and one of Hollywood's highest paid directors, is dead in Hollywood, following a heart attack. Cruze, who was 58, had been ill for the past two and one-half years and the last picture listed to his credit was "Come On Leathernecks," made in 1938.

Cruze had a long list of important films to his credit, including "Old Ironsides," "Merton of the Movies," "Hollywood," "Ruggles of Red Gap," "Beggars On Horseback," "Washington Merry-Go-Round," and "David Harum." In 1926 and again in 1928 he was listed among the world's ten best directors. In 1928 he organized his own production and distributing unit and in 1930 formed the James Cruze Productions, turning out "She Got What She Wanted," "Salvation Nell" and "Racetrack." He was born in Ogden, Utah.



## Takeups

MERVYN GOLDSTONE of Esquire will take the marriage vows Shortly, as will Steve McManus, manager of the Bayview, Toronto. . . Irwin Frohman, assistant manager of the Doric, got married, then left a few days later to join the army. . . Murray Mitchell, Emp-U booker, is headed for khaki. . . Nat Taylor of 20th Century Theatres, is back at his desk after a holiday and R. C. McMullen, the industry administrator for Ottawa, has left his for a vacation. . . Overheard: "When a man shoots an animal he want it to be big enough to sit on and when he catches a fish he wants it to be big enough to lie on" . . . The fish stories grow taller and taller as boys get back in from their yearly respite. . . Did you know that Dr. Herbert Kalmus, originator of Technicolor, was a professor at the University of Toronto in 1927?

## A Wee Bit o' Scotch

AN empty store stands at the corner of John and Queen streets. A vendor of bottled spirits occupied it for many years. The coming of Prohibition in 1916 caused it to change character. It has been infrequently tenanted since.

The place is haunted. Yes, haunted. But there's nothing weird about its lone occupant.

Above the wide doorway is the miniature figure of a Scotsman carved in wood. His smiling face is adorned with sideburns and topped rakishly with a tam-o'-shanter. He is performing the time-honored gesture of pulling a cork from a bottle—a bottle like the many once billeted here.

## Man's Ingratitude. . .

A PROUD relic of a generation gone is this Scotsman, forgotten by those over whom he kept watch, welcoming them as they arrived, blessing them as they departed. Beneath him, inward bound, men strolled, staggered and stumbled, their arms waiting for the happy cargo, their eyes alive with thoughts of joy to be.

Inside, those vari-labelled bottles, in their paper greatcoats, stood stiffly at attention or lay flat—like the good little soldiers they were—until their cheerless surrender.

Years of drought and dreams. Then repeal. But the dispensing of spirits was confined to government agencies, hotels and clubs. Again the faithful passed beneath him, the potent nectar in protecting arms, their pace increased by anticipation. But they hurried by with never a friendly nod. None sought to return his lost glory. None acknowledged his heroic vigil. None cared about his loyalty to an old cause. Ah well, man's ingratitude. . .

## Valiant Spirit

BRAVE little Scotsman. A thousand-and-one rains have pelted him. A thousand-and-one snows have lashed him. A thousand-and-one frosts have bitten him. A thousand-and-one suns have scorched him. Not once has he whimpered.

And still the little Scotsman smiles—smiles and waits. What keeps him smiling? His memories? Or thoughts on what fools these mortals be?

How much longer will he keep his cheery watch?

## I Think They're Better

THE mother of Georgie Altman, Vitagraph salesman, is a good old soul whom we have known and admired for many years. She's a film fan and a good sport.

But she never remembers the title and her improvisations are as good, if not better, than the original.

Once, when George asked her the name of a picture she had seen, she answered: "The Wind Took It Away." She meant "Gone With the Wind." On other occasions "Blossoms in the Dust" became "Flowers in the Sand" and "Tobacco Road" was changed to "Tobacco Leaves."

Mickey Rooney may not relish what happened to him. He was "Macaroni."

## Male Movie Biz Biggest

Who started that lie about the girls being movie-mad and the men indifferent? We've been taught to believe all along that the man in the family is constantly being pressured into taking in a picture by his wife with age-old arguments about standing over a hot stove all day. Many an unharmonious note is supposed to have arisen because wife sneaked off to a show in the afternoon and the lateness of the dinner couldn't be explained in way to pacify the breadwinner.

Well, like so many things we've always believed, t'ain't so.

The Gallup poll, under the supervision of Dr. George W. Gallup, shows that in cities over 100,000 in population 51 per cent of patrons are men. In cities under that population 52 per cent are men.

Other interesting facts turned up by the poll are:

When men and women go together the latter choose the picture.

Sixty-five per cent of attendance is made up of persons under 30 years of age and 54 per cent of that figure are males. Of patronage made up of 30-year-olds 51 per cent are females. At 19 people attend in equal numbers.

From Friday to Sunday male attendance is 54 per cent, the rest of the time it's evenly divided.

The boys like action and biographies, the girls like romance. Nothing new about that.

Men go for Andy Hardy and women for Abbott and Costello pictures. That's a new one on us.

Pictures with masculine appeal do more business than those aimed at the distaff side. Women, it seems, go to men's pictures to a greater extent than vice-versa.

One hundred and fourteen films were used as a gauge.

Draft or no, the boys are still in the lead.

## Rosson, Crew Here For 'Corvette' Shots

Richard Rosson, director of Howard Hawks' Universal production, "Corvettes in Action," is at a Canadian port, where he will board a corvette to take footage of a trans-Atlantic convoy crossing. Accompanying Rosson are Lieut. J. R. Sturdy, Royal Canadian Navy, who worked with him on script; Business Manager Vernon Keays, Chief Cameraman Harry Perry, Len Powers, Bert Eason, Roland Smith and Harry Gudstrom.

Heading east today to join the Rosson crew in Canada will be players Robert James Hale, Rex Lease and Orville R. O'Donnell.



# Digest of Reviews

## Columbia

### THE TALK OF THE TOWN

**Sizeup:** A highly intelligent comedy woven out of a modern theme. It maintains a fast pace and a deep interest, as well as sharp and steady laughter. Jean Arthur, Cary Grant and Ronald Colman make the most of three rich, distinctive roles.

**What Goes On:** Cary Grant is a small-town agitator, wrongly accused of burning down a local factory, who breaks jail when a fair trial seems out of the question. He hides in a cottage rented to Ronald Colman, dean of a law school, by Jean Arthur, a school teacher who hasn't heart to turn Grant in. She gets herself hired as Colman's secretary, passes Grant off as the gardener until she goads Colman into taking an active part in Grant's defence. Both men become interested in her romantically. Colman gets a Supreme Court appointment and Grant wins freedom and the girl.

**Sizeup:** Jean Arthur loses nothing at all against the expert playing of Colman and Grant. Colman displays his smoothest manner and tones, a direct contrast to Grant's honest presentation of a desperate, dirty fugitive. The picture is grim and tense during the early part but lightens up and gives way to comedy. Every part in the film, no matter how small, was expertly cast and so Glenda Farrell, Edgar Buchanan, Rex Ingram, Leonid Kinsky and other well-known players pop up all through. "Talk of the Town" was directed splendidly by George Stevens, who did "Woman of the Year" and should rank as one of the big pictures of the season for its escape value alone.

### SABOTAGE SQUAD

**Payoff:** The police squad hunts down the leader of a Nazi spy ring, doing it in a fashion that provides suspense and speed throughout for the auditor.

**What Goes On:** There are some loose ends that are hardly noticeable and a few novel twists. Bruce Bennett is the cop whose rival for the affections of Kay Harris, Eddie Norris, is a reformed thief. The cops are out to locate the man who owns a certain medal, the evidence of authority among the spies. Norris' friend, George McKay, a paroled pickpocket, lifts the wallet of Sydney Blackmer, a respected scientist, and finds the medal. The medal is found on Norris, who is allowed to escape. Norris is trailed by police and spies, the police guessing that the spies will go after him. The action leads to the prevention of sabotage in an aircraft factory, Norris deliberately crashing a dynamite-laden truck carrying him and Blackmer.

**Sizeup:** This is extremely interesting for a B.

### BLONDIE FOR VICTORY

**Payoff:** Good issue of the popular series. Plenty of howls and an up-to-the-minute theme.

**What Goes On:** Blondie organizes a housewives' service brigade and disorganizes the home life of Dagwood and the neighbors. Dagwood borrows a military uniform and pretends he has enlisted to bring Blondie back to the responsibilities of the home. Then the involvements start.

**Sizeup:** Stuart Erwin, Jonathan Hale and some new faces join Lake, Singleton and the old ones.

## 20th Century-Fox

### FOOTLIGHT SERENADE

**Payoff:** Betty Grable and Victor Mature in their most modest offering of recent date which is, nevertheless, tuneful, lively and interesting. John Payne, Jane Wyman, Cobina Wright, Jr., and June Lang lend their weight to it. It's a musical.

**What Goes On:** Mature is the champ pug starring in a show and hot for Grable, a chorus girl married to Payne. James Gleason, the producer, makes them keep it quiet and Grable has to bear Mature's wooing. Payne, Mature's sparring partner in the show, takes a licking in the ring when Mature finds out that Grable has been carrying on with him. When Mature learns that they're married he's a sport about it.

**Sizeup:** Though a backstage musical, the prizefight angle, unworked in film musicals since Baer made a picture with Loy, gives it a certain freshness. Phil Silvers, as a stage comic and Gleason's aide, does much for the film. There are six musical numbers.

## Republic

### JOAN OF OZARK

**Payoff:** Good comedy for the lovers of boisterous, country-type humor as specialized in by Judy Canova. The studio has teamed her with another disciple of broad humor, Joe E. Brown. Together they work out a series of substantial laughs.

**What Goes On:** Joe E. Brown is a vaudeville booker who kids Canova into coming to New York and singing in a night club. He poses as an FBI man, tells her that she's needed to spy on the night club owners, suspected of being spies. They really are.

**Sizeup:** The picture has four songs. Familiar players are Eddie Foy, Jr., and Jerome Cowan.

## Universal

### TREAT 'EM ROUGH

**Payoff:** Nice little prizefight drama about oil thieves.

**What Goes On:** Eddie Albert is a prizefighter against his rich Pappy's wishes. Pappy is an oil king whose wells are being looted for sale to the enemy. Eddie straightens it out.

**Sizeup:** Peggy Moran, William Frawley, Monte Blue, Jack Mulhall, Ed Pawley and Dewey Robinson.

## Reviewed Earlier

### ESCAPE FROM CRIME (Vitagraph)

Gangster piece of distinctly minor classification. Richard Travis is a reformed crook who goes straight and helps round up his old mob. Julie Bishop, Jackie C. Gleason, Rex Williams and Frank Wilcox.

### PARACHUTE NURSE (Columbia)

A timely subject is this female branch of the service. Marguerite Chapman just can't jump and is tricked into it by her pals, thereby remaining in the army. William Wright and Louise Albritton.

### SUNDAY PUNCH (Regal)

Plenty of punch, some laughter and a familiar story. Good names on hand to present this story of a gold-digger who reforms for her college-bred pugilistic sweetheart. William Lundigan, Jean Rogers, Dan Dailey, Jr., Guy Kibbee, J. Carrol Naish, Leo Gorcey and Rags Ragland.

### TAKE A LETTER, DARLING (Paramount)

Long on loud laughter. Rosalind Russell is the advertising executive who needs an escort to placate wives of potential account-givers. Fred MacMurray, Constance Moore and Macdonald Carey.

## EXHIBITORS BOOKING ASSOCIATION

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Frank Meyers, Manager



## Champs Show in Warner Short

Joe Louis, Jack Dempsey and Gene Tunney will be seen on the screen together for the first time in a two-reel National Defense short subject titled "Champions Train Champions."

Warners has completed negotiations with the U.S. Army, Navy and Coast Guard to assign the three great heavyweight champions of past and present to the film of the picture, which will show how they are performing their current task of helping condition Uncle Sam's fighting men.

\* \* \*

Richard Fraser, recently signed to a long-term contract by Warner Bros., has been cast in the important role of Pastor Aalesen in "Edge of Darkness," film adaptation of the William Woods novel about Nazi-dominated Norway. Ann Sheridan and Errol Flynn will co-star in the production.

Other new names announced for the cast include Morris Carnovsky, important player in many New York Theatre Guild productions, and Roman Bohnen, who recently played at Warners in "The Hard Way." Lewis Milestone will direct "Edge of Darkness," and the producer is Henry Blanke.

\* \* \*

Purchase of an important unproduced play property, "One More Tomorrow," in the screen version of which Olivia de Havilland is to be starred, is announced by Warner Bros.

Dennis Morgan, currently engaged in the starring role of "The Desert Song," will appear opposite Miss de Havilland in "One More Tomorrow." The picture will be directed by Curtis Bernhardt and produced by Mark Hellinger.

## '49th Parallel' Barred in S.A.

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record crowds to Buenos Aires' largest theatre for more than a week. Audiences always loudly boo and hiss the Nazi characters and the pro-democratic press had hailed the picture.

German and Italian protests last year stopped the showing of Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator." Hundreds of Buenos Aires residents crossed the Platte River to Colonia, Uruguay, where its showing was allowed.

## Laxer Indies Booklet Blasts Chains, Distribs

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theatre construction closed, the Chains have turned to the independent territory for extension in Canada.

"The weapon now employed by the Chains for absorbing Independent theatres is that of taking away their pictures, or as it may be otherwise stated, worsening the product of Independent theatres, by depriving them of the pictures of certain producers, by selecting top bracket pictures, leaving the poorer pictures to the Independents, by taking away their runs of particular producers—in short, by overbuying."

Laxer, in his foreword, charged that, "there persists, on the part of certain sections of the industry an effort to alter the original regulations from their true intent and purpose." This claim crops up again in the Memorandum, dated March 26th and signed by Henry Falk as president of the National Council. "The attitude and conduct of the Distributors and Chain exhibitors," it states, "appears to be one of disregard of the Government's plan and purpose as shown in its Wartime Prices and Trade Board measures . . . The seeming intention of the Distributors and Chains is to pursue their business as if no Wartime Board had come into being."

Quoting the Dominion Government's Bureau of Statistics to qualify the charges of attempted acquisition of Independent theatres, the Memorandum states that the growth of the number of theatres under the ownership of chains with more than four theatres grew from 18 per cent in 1930 to about 50 per cent of Canada's 1250 theatres in 1942. The percentage of total revenue of the chains, it was further stated, increased during the same period

from 40 per cent to about 75 per cent in 1942 out of a total of \$38,000,000 taken in at the box-office.

Also contained in the booklet are two more Memorandums reviewing the policies and rulings applied to the motion picture industry, as stated by R. G. McMullen, director of the Theatre and Film Section, and the Hon. J. L. Isley. Some are criticized mildly, others vigorously.

Three Appendices, "A" and "B" dealing with the general and particular policy respectively of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board; and "C," a reprint of a monograph on overbuying by a Congressional committee, are included. There are also two Exhibits, "A" and "B," the first being a letter from H. G. Stevenson, president of the Alberta Independents, to James Stewart, Administrator of Services, and "B," a table showing the increased revenue of the distributing companies.

The reason for the issuance of the booklet, as explained therein, is that the theatre chains and distributors had made representations regarding the degree of control outside the channels of the Motion Picture National Advisory Council, an act contrary to a plan agreed on at the time it was formed.

Those whose names were attached to the Memorandum to Mr. Stewart were A. J. Mason, Nova Scotia; Henry Falk, Ontario; B. E. Laxer, Ontario; R. McTavish, British Columbia; B. R. Johnson, Saskatchewan; H. G. Stevenson, Alberta; A. A. Fielding, New Brunswick; and H. Schulman, Manitoba.

The booklet, in effect a bombshell, may result in the most violent ruckus ever experienced in the Canadian motion picture industry.

## Assoc'd Screen News Handles NFB Films

Two French subjects were recorded for the National Film Board at Associated Screen Studios, both with Gerard Arthur supplying voice for the narration. "Radio Canada" and the French version of "Women as Warriors" were the two short subjects recorded.

Norman Hull of Associated Screen Studios has been in the Canadian Rockies for a few weeks shooting color motion pictures. W. J. Singleton, sales manager, was in Ottawa on business.

Recent visitor to Montreal and Associated Screen Studios was J. W. Pechet, of Canadian Screen Publicity, Winnipeg.

## Maybe the Film Was Too Interesting

Enoch Edmonson, 76, sitting in a theatre in Quitman, Ga., got up with the rest of the crowd to see what had happened when a pistol shot sounded.

No one discovered the source of the shot, the show went on and presently Edmonson left the theatre. Several blocks away he discovered that a pistol he carried in his pocket had been discharged. But he was not aware he had been wounded.

In a hospital after, attendants said the bullet coursed upward through Edmonson's back, punctured a lung and lodged in his neck. He was in a serious condition.

## Revivals in New York

**Algiers**—1938 romantic drama; C. Boyer, H. Lamarr, S. Gurie.

**Buccaneer, The**—1938 semi-historical romantic drama; F. March, F. Gaal.

**Cat and the Canary**—1939 comedy-mystery; B. Hope, P. Goddard.

**Doctor Takes a Wife**—1940 romantic farce-comedy; L. Young, R. Milland.

**Drums Along the Mohawk**—1939 Technicolor melodrama; Fonda & Colbert.

**Farewell to Arms**—1932 revival of Hemingway's famous story; G. Cooper, H. Hayes.

**Grapes of Wrath**—1940 dramatization of Steinbeck's novel; H. Fonda, Jane Darwell.

**Great Victor Herbert**—1932 musical; W. Connolly, M. Martin, A. Jones.

**Joy of Living**—1938 comedy; I. Dunne, D. Fairbanks, Jr.

**Long Voyage Home**—1940 nautical drama from 4 O'Neill plays; T. Mitchell, I. Hunter.

**Love from a Stranger**—1937 psychopathic melodrama; A. Harding, B. Rathbone.

**Love Me Forever**—1935 operatic film, G. Moore, L. Carrillo.

**Milky Way**—1936 comedy; Harold Lloyd.

**Night Train**—1940 melodrama; R. Harrison, M. Lockwood.

**Only Angels Have Wings**—1939 aviation melodrama; C. Grant, J. Arthur.

**Philadelphia Story**—1940 comedy from the B'way play; K. Hepburn, C. Grant, J. Stewart.

**Primrose Path**—1940 drama; G. Rogers, J. McCrea.

**Road to Zanzibar**—1941 farce comedy; Bing Crosby, B. Hope, D. Lamour.

**She Married Her Boss**—1935 comedy; Colbert, M. Douglas.

**Storm in a Teacup**—1938 comedy; V. Leigh, R. Harrison.

**Submarine D-1**—1937 drama; G. Brent, P. O'Brien.

**Tovarich**—1937 comedy; C. Boychuk, C. Colbert.

## Sussman Quits Fox

William Sussman has resigned from 20th-Fox and will announce a new affiliation following a short vacation. Sussman was eastern sales manager of 20th-Fox for many years and was recently appointed a home office sales representative.

Complete Theatre Equipment and Supplies

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ELECTRIC CO.**  
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**SUGAR** rationing? Well, just pick your favorite substitute! Ralph Tiede of the Century theatre, Trenton, issued small folded pamphlets, the outer page reading "Are you looking for a substitute for sugar?" The inner copy advised the reader to visit the cool Century theatre, where "You are always assured of seeing a 'HONEY' of a show." It also informed the reader of "Some other sweet numbers to suit anyone's taste," namely the features playing the following week. A local cleaner shared the cost of this folder by carrying an ad on the back page. These folders were handed out at the theatre, placed in several restaurants and distributed to homes.

**AL (BOB HOPE) PERLEY** in his new surroundings at the cool Midtown, Toronto, was quick to recognize talent on the home grounds. After showing the advance trailers on "Sleepy Time Gal," Al plugged the picture via the P.A. System and announced that two of his talented usherettes would give out personally the music they had just listened to on the trailers. One of these gals is an accordionist and the other a songstress. They got their audience really warmed up and everybody went to town singing "Sleepy Time Gal." The whole idea was very spontaneous, likewise the applause—in fact Al expects to keep his audience singing for the rest of the run. No use talking, Bob, or we should say, Al, that Muskoka Sunshine sure is worth its

## UA to Release Frank Buck Film

A releasing deal has been negotiated by Gradwell L. Sears, Vice-President of United Artists, and Jules Levey, representing Mayfair Productions, whereby United Artists will distribute Frank Buck's "Jacare," a wild animal picture filmed in South America, deep in the wilderness of the Amazon River Valley.

After many months of exploration and untold hardships, the expedition recently returned to this country, and "Jacare" is now being cut in Hollywood. The film will have a commentary by Frank Buck, and both Mr. Buck and James Dannaldson, the star of the film, will appear in the prologue and epilogue now in production.

Otho Lovering, remembered for "Stagecoach" and Foreign Correspondent, is supervising the editing of "Jacare." Tom Lennon wrote the screenplay and narration, and United Artists will release the film early in October.



Contributions to this column will be greatly appreciated from any member of the motion picture industry, from coast to coast, whether he has chain affiliations or is strictly independent.

Address all letters to "What Did You Do?" c/o Film Weekly 21 Dundas Sq., Toronto, Ont.

**A** VERY novel display was hung in the lobby of the Granada Theatre, St. Thomas, for "Blondie's Blessed Event." Bob Thomas, that up-and-coming assistant, arranged a set of diapers, alternately with pictures, cut out from a one sheet, some of the pictures being pinned to the diapers. These with other baby garments, were strung in the lobby several days before the engagement. When the picture broke the "diaper display" was transferred to the back of the marquee and over the box office. This caused much comment. A window tieup was obtained with a baby clothes shop. A one-sheet and 11x14's were shown in the window and the shop in turn gave a complete set of baby clothes, which were well displayed in the lobby around stills of "Blondie's Blessed Event."

On "Remember Pearl Harbor" a six-sheet was displayed opposite the City Hall for a full week in advance. 22x28's were displayed in hotels, train depots and store windows. A huge aeroplane the size of the entire marquee, used on a previous occasion, was repainted and displayed on top of the marquee. A false box office front was used to represent a machine gun emplacement with sandbags. These were borrowed from the army. A display of Lewis guns, sandbags, trench mortars, British rifles and helmets, German guns and rifles, gas masks, blank shells and cartridges were set up against a "Remember Pearl Harbor" background. This was there for the "Saturday Nighters" and received a terrific amount of attention. Extra space in the Times Journal was obtained in connection with a "Remember Pearl Harbor" parade in which the Reserve regiment (100 men) marched to the theatre at the invitation of the management. This thrilling and timely display was assembled without any cost to the theatre and will gain much good will.

**DOUG PATTERSON**, Regent, Creighton Mines, got a snappy advance teaser ad on "Twin Beds." Copy read: "The Funniest Thing on Eight Legs." Doug had plenty of inquisitive callers.

**ON** "40,000 Horsemen" Bob Berzin, Elgin Theatre, Ottawa, used daily radio spot announcements in conjunction with his newspaper campaign. An attractive marquee, featuring suggested catchlines, helped materially in attracting passers by.

The Australian High Commissioner and Australian airmen attended the first showing of the feature. This resulted in a social column note.

For "South American George" Bob had a very catchy ad in the daily papers along these lines—"Can't stop laughing long enough to make up a regular ad" etc. Night club orchestras plugged the songs from the picture, all for a couple of passes.

**MAX PHILIPS**, Regent, Sudbury, made up an attractive attention-getting lobby set-piece on "Secret Agent of Japan," using green gelatine inserted in the Jap's eyes and flooding the whole display with green spot which gave a very weird appearance. Max is also using a rickshaw street bally on this feature with copy: "Closed lips do not betray secrets to the enemy."

To cool things off a bit, Max plugs the air conditioning in this manner: "Escape the heat and enjoy a cool show at the Regent theatre." A cutout Penguin standing on a block of ice was made to spot on the theatre front, along with appropriate copy. Spot lighting lobby display with blue and green colors helped emphasize a cool atmosphere.

**ON** the "Kennel Murder Case" Ernie Reid, Bob Brown's right hand man at the Vanity, Windsor, distributed giant window cards and stunt heralds throughout the city. The heralds displayed a thread, tying up with the solution of crime in this picture. Through the newspaper he conducted an amateur sleuth contest, giving out passes as prizes.

For "Atlantic Convoy" a street gag was used, consisting of a young man in a sailor's summer uniform, and carrying a card with copy: "Shipmates, Convoy your Girl to see the Action Spectacle of the year 'Atlantic Convoy,'" etc.

**PETE HARRISON** in the Capitol Theatre in Cobourg comes forth on "No Greater Sin," with an advance preview for the civic and health Official, who were so greatly impressed that they paid for an ad in the local paper urging the people to attend and endorsing the film. Pete covered every surrounding town with one-sheets and window cards and distributed heralds throughout the town and district. He ran special ads as laid out in the regular campaign. All the beverage rooms, and public lavatories were posted with cards. All local industries allowed Pete to insert a small card in every pay envelope in advance. The local paper, after the screening, came out with an excellent editorial urging the public to attend. Several of the local preachers at the screening were greatly surprised with the film, according to Pete, and recommended it to their flock.

**BILL CUPPLES**, Grand, Sudbury, used advance teaser ads in the daily papers for "Suez." Special heralds were distributed in the form of facsimile newspaper with illustrations, tying in war action around Suez. This herald proved to be very effective.

## Music Big Thing In 'Bambi'

Music, always a vitally important factor in any Walt Disney film, plays a stellar role in "Bambi," Disney's newest full length Technicolor production, which marks his first venture into the field of popular literature.

All of the elements of beauty, love, romance, excitement, and pathos which go to make up the eloquent and moving story of "Bambi," a "book of the month" best seller by Felix Salten, made it possible for the Disney composers to use music as a potent, if unseen, performer.

"Bambi's" musical heritage is rich. The late Frank Churchill, whose themes are touched with the same magic which dusts the Disney characters, was responsible for the unforgettable music of "Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs." Edward Plumb, who arranged most of the "Bambi" music and was responsible for some of the main thematic material, was the studio musical director on "Fantasia."

Reestablishing in Hollywood a team responsible for some of Europe's outstanding musical films, Gregor Rabinovitch, United Artists producer, has signed Jan Kiepura, Polish singer, to a two-way play and picture contract.



# Snips and Snaps . . .

## Jinx



Jinx Falkenberg's latest for Columbia is "Lucky Legs," the cast of which includes Russell Harden, Elizabeth Patterson, Kay Harris and Lester Bradley.



## Romancers



Smiling John Payne and lovely Betty Grable, starring in 20th Century-Fox's musical, "Footlight Serenade." Victor Mature and Cobina Wright, Jr., also share the billing.



The choice of Ingrid Bergman, who will long be remembered for her role in "Intermezzo," to play the part of Maria in Paramount's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" has been warmly received everywhere. Zorina was tested for the role but she agreed that wearing trousers and a short haircut had deglamorized her completely. Gary Cooper will play the male lead in what should be one of the best films in years. Is there no stopping that Cooper man? He'll go down in movie history as the best boxoffice batter in the business after they add "For Whom the Bell Tolls" to "Pride of the Yankees," "Sergeant York" and "Ball of Fire." And they say no nicer fellow deserves that distinction. Never in his long Hollywood history has his name been linked with anything questionable. He is certainly a credit to his craft.

Ida Lupino is the sick kid of the movies. Right now she's ill with laryngitis. Earlier this year she had a breakdown. She falls victim to most everything. . . . Max Baer, the ex-pugilist, who surprised everyone with his talent when he made "The Prizefighter and the Lady" with Myrna Loy, is back in pictures. He's busy working in "Ladies' Day" and Patsy Kelly, no mean clown herself, will play his wife. . . . Who do you think is headed for the top again? Arlene Judge. She's been working in back lots after a while away but now she's at Columbia, an important studio, for "Mr. Smith from Minnesota". . . . There's a new picture called "Hitler—Dead or Alive."

A quantity of motion picture prints was rescued under the flat noses of the Japs when they overran Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. The Japs used to be mad about American films. They'll be mad at them when the old film is converted to explosives and shot back at them. . . . Merle Oberon will play the girl in "The Girl from Leningrad," which may be the first of a string of Russ-themed Hollywood productions. . . . His Majesty King George arranged for a showing of "Mrs. Miniver" to 400 British troops. The film is a great attraction in Britain, where they don't mind English characters with American accents any more. What tangled tones there will be after the war, when Yank-conditioned Britishers and English-exposed Americans come home! . . . Gracie Fields, England's sweetheart, will make a Hollywood picture to be called "The Man From Down Under."

Film stars have their little quirks. Rita Hayworth hates buying pocketbooks, Spencer Tracey hates player pianos and Clark Gable nixes dressing-room whistlers. Roz Russell can't sleep if her shoes aren't in wearing order beside her bed, Cary Grant won't make a scene unless he has jingable coins in his pocket and Mel Douglas won't be third man on a match. Joan Crawford keeps her toes turned in when the camera isn't looking, Jean Arthur can't chase away a stray dog and Myrna Loy just won't walk under a ladder. Now what's your pet phobia?

Tarzan will battle Nazi spies in his next. . . . Claire Trevor is learning to smoke cigars for her next role in "The Desperadoes." What those girls go through for you! . . . None of the cast of Irving Berlin's "This is the Army" will get anything for working in it. Berlin gave up his share for Army Emergency Relief and so will the others. . . . The life story of the late Nora Bayes, great songstress of other years, will be called "Shine On, Harvest Moon," a song she made famous. . . . Judith Anderson, the stage star, will appear in "The Edge of Darkness," a story of Nazi-dominated Norway. . . . Heather Angel is coming back to the screen in "The Undying Monster" and so is Ann Harding in "Eyes in the Night."

(Exhibitors are welcome to lift any and all this material for promotion purposes.)

## Wake Island Hero



Brian Donlevy portrays the valiant major in command of the Marine garrison in Paramount's "Wake Island."



## Canucks



John Carroll and Ruth Hussey are teamed in MGM's "Pierre of the Plains." The film portrays adventure and love in the Canadian Northwest.



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